

me an object worthy of some enterprise, to ascertain whether an extensive sale may not be obtained for our Black Lead for the purposes of painting. It may be added, that this is a very excellent substance to mix with tar for coating the roofs of buildings.

I have not enumerated all the uses that are made of Plumbago; but the foregoing are the principal. They are sufficient to show that its intrinsic value is great, although foreign markets should be glutted with the article from other sources. But no very effectual trials have been made to make it known to the commercial world. Mr. Henderson, it is true, a few years since embarked in the concern with a laudable zeal and enterprise; but several untoward events, unconnected with the real value of the article, prevented his success. He sent it to France, to Denmark and to Scotland. Some was sold for five crowns per hundred, and some for ten dollars. I have before mentioned London and the cities of Holland as probably the best markets for it on account of the extensive manufactures of it carried on in those places.

Not far from the Pilot Mountain is another considerable deposit of Plumbago. It may be seen on the land of Mr. Spainhaur. It appears to be inferior in quality to that of Wake, but is extensive and deserves attention.

Fire-Stone.—The rock that forms the bed of the Black Lead of Wake is an excellent fire-stone, and will be found very suitable for the hearths of forges and furnaces, and for the backs of fire-places. I have never seen a rock of this class so compact in its structure. This admits of being got out in large blocks, as may be seen in the steps of the Newbern Bank at Raleigh. It is not, however, very suitable for steps, on account of its liability to crumble and decay when wet. A similar kind of stone is used for furnace-hearths at the iron-works in Lincoln. Before its discovery there, the proprietors of those works were accustomed to send to Philadelphia for it.

MAGNESIAN MINERALS OF WAKE.

Under this name are included several minerals, which owe their peculiar properties to the presence of Magnesia, the most important of which are Serpentine and Soapstone. Both of these rocks occur in great abundance and of a good quality, a little north of the Black Lead formation, and within twelve miles of Raleigh. Serpentine, though not strictly marble, is sometimes sawn into slabs and polished, and sold under the name of green marble. It is by no means an uncommon mineral, but it is not often found so beautiful as at the foregoing locality. It very much resembles a kind found in the Isle of Anglesea, where it is wrought into chimney-pieces, columns, and for other architectural and ornamental